Modernisation and expansion plan for Patna airport

3185. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether AAI has prepared any modernisation and expansion plan for Patna airport in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to convert it into an international airport to attract Buddhist and Sikh pilgrims from aborad; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d) AAI has plans to construct Terminal Building and Technical Block at Patna Airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 608 lakhs. The Terminal Building has been inaugurated on 21.12.96. This airport can cater to limited international traffic. However, there is no proposal to convert it into an international airport.

Mystery about the Victims of Mid-air collision at Charkhi Dadri

3186. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many persons listed as dead in the mid-air collision at Charkhi Dadri in November 1996 are alive;

(b) whether it is also a fact that more than 38 passengers were travelling on fake documents; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to check this scamy racket of forged passports and unscrupulous travel agents?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to prevent use of forged travel documents include introduction of 'More Secured Passports' with several security features viz (i) incorporation of invisible letters, numers and designs which can be read only under ultra violet lamp, (ii) micro-printing in lines, (iii) water mark in every page, (iv) perforated passport number on every page; and (v) special training to Immigration Officers for detecting cases of impersonation.

Issue of entry passes by Airport Authority

3187. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Airport Authority of India is giving entry passes for the Airports to the general public; and

(b) if so, what are the criteria therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir.
(b) Does not arise.

Airports closed for flights

3188. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some airports of country have been closed for flights during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State and Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to open some of such airports at least for domestic flights; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following airports were not in operation during the last 3 years:— Ballurghat and Malda (West Bengal), Bilaspur, Khandwa, Panna and Satna (Madhya Pradesh), Chakulia, Jogbani, Muzzafarpur and Raxaul (Bihar), Cuddapah, Donakonda and Warangal (Andhra Pradesh), Mysore and Hassan (Karnataka), Deesa (Gujarat), Jhansi and Lalitpur (Uttar Pradesh), Jharsuguda (Orissa), Kailashahar, Kamalaput and Khowai